

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8 and 14 are pending. Claims 1 to 6, 9 to 13, and 15 have been withdrawn as non-elected and are canceled.

Claim 7 calls for the elected invention of Figures 1 and 2.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori (U.S. Patent No. 5,310,426) in view of Wort et al (EP 0 520 832) and Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,387).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori (U.S. Patent No. 5,310,426) in view of Wort et al (EP 0 520 832) and Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,387) as applied to claim 7 and further in view of Yamamoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,290).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori (U.S. Patent No. 5,310,426) in view of Wort et al (EP 0 520 832) and Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,387) as applied to claim 7 and further in view of Aoyama et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,651,827) and Hawkins et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,684).

In regard to the prior art rejections, none of the references alone or in combination suggest the presently claimed invention, as in Figures 1 and 2.

Mori describes a high pressure microwave system. The reference didn't even recognize the possibility of using multiple angled and crossed beams from four curved mirrors to produce a plasma as claimed in Claims 7, 8 and 14.

Wort et al describes a mirror system which has a single beam focused to produce the plasma on the substrate. There is no suggestion of the four mirrors of Claims 7, 8 and 14.

Chen describes corrugations 16 in a waveguide but says nothing about plane or curved mirrors as claimed.

The combination of the cited references does not in any way suggest the claimed invention of Claim 7 and dependent Claims 8 and 14. Reconsideration is requested.

Dependent Claim 8 was rejected over the references previously applied, along with Yamamoto et al. The above arguments are reiterated here. Yamamoto et al does not describe the use of four mirrors to divide the beam as claimed and is a totally different system. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

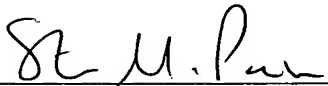
Dependent Claim 14 was rejected over the references applied to Claim 7 in view of Aoyama et al and Hawkins et al. The arguments above are repeated here. Aoyama et al merely teaches about quartz plasma chambers, which is well known. There is nothing there to suggest the claimed invention. Hawkins describes using CVD systems for gas flow through multiple outlets (apertures) into a plasma reactor. There is no suggestion of the system of Claim 14, and Figures 1 and 2, with the apertures and the four microwave beams which cross to form the plasma. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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Applicants' attorney has asked for translations of the references noted in the Office Action. They will be supplied as soon as they are available.

It is now believed that Claims 7, 8 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully,



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